

## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY East Germany REPORT  25X1  
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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1. The borax available at the Eisenhuettenwerk Thale will suffice to assure the production of large chemical containers until the end of May 1955. After this, Thale will have no more borax for the production of bathtubs and other sanitary equipment. The foundry enamelling plant which produces such equipment has ceased operations, and its workers have been laid off.
2. Experiments are underway for conversion to production without the use of borax. It is expected that this type of production will be feasible. However, it will not longer be possible to produce acid-resistant articles meeting strict specifications.
3. Kitchenware is already being produced without borax enamelling in the kitchenware enamelling plant. Production for export has ceased, since the quality of this type of production renders it unfit for export. As of the beginning of May, only olive-green enamelware was being produced in this plant. This is the only type that can be produced without the use of borax.
4. The borax shortage, as of May, was causing the Eisenhuettenwerk Thale a monthly loss of about 250,000 DEM in increased production costs alone. Added to these losses will be the loss of export contracts and the difficulties are expected as a result of export commitments which the plant will not be able to meet.

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